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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/689,842	10/13/2000	Arthur R. Halbritter	05954.0064-00000	6662
22852 7590 04/06/2007 FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413			EXAMINER LE, LINH GIANG	
			ART UNIT 3626	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		04/06/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/689,842

Applicant(s)

HALBRITTER ET AL.

Examiner

Michelle Linh-Giang Le

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 October 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-78 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-78 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 October 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 112204; 122305.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant

1. This communication is in response to application filed 13 Oct 2000.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-78 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chuang (5,987,421).

4. As per claim 1, Chuang teaches a method for locating a patron at a hospitality facility including a server and a plurality of client terminals, receiving, from one of the plurality of client terminals, a patron identifier identifying a patron and a location identifier identifying a location in the hospitality facility and storing the location identifier; the method comprising (Chuang; Abstract):
receiving, from a client terminal, a request for the location of a particular patron (Chuang Col. 11, lines 48-65);
retrieving a location identifier for the particular patron (Chuang; Col. 12, lines 1-12); and

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sending a message based on the location identifier for the particular patron (Chuang; Col. 12, lines 6-12).

Chuang does not expressly teach an account corresponding to a particular patron. However this is an obvious variation of the Chuang teachings. Chuang does teach relating a specific GID device with the credit card account of a patron (Chuang; Col. 10, lines 6-17). Examiner respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would find this feature to be an obvious variation of the Chuang teachings with the motivation of providing a means for distributing and assigning GID devices to guests (Chuang; Col. 9, lines 55-60).

5. As per claim 2 Chuang teaches wherein sending a message includes sending, to the client terminal, directions to a location corresponding to the location identifier for the particular patron (Chuang; Col. 12, lines 6-12).

6. As per claim 3, Chuang teaches wherein sending a message includes sending, to the client terminal, a map with directions to a location corresponding to the location identifier for the particular patron (Chuang; Col. 12, lines 12-20).

7. As per claim 4, Chuang teaches wherein sending a map includes deriving the map from a location identifier corresponding to the client terminal and the location identifier for the particular patron (Chuang; Col. 12, lines 1-20).

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8. As per claim 5, Chuang teaches wherein sending a message comprises sending, to the particular patron, a message (Chuang; Col. 12, lines 6-12).

9. As per claims 6-8, Chuang does not expressly teach:

wherein sending a message comprises sending, to the particular patron, a message for a rendezvous.

wherein sending a message comprises sending, to the particular patron, a status message indicating the status of an offline game.

sending a message comprising sending, to the particular patron, a promotional message.

However these features are obvious variations of the Chuang teachings.

Chuang teaches a "message" feature in the GID device (Chuang; Col. 9, lines 14-21).

Examiner respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would find these features to be an obvious variation of what Chuang teaches with the motivation of networking the entire guest population and also increasing the business throughout the park (Col. 4, lines 8-20).

10. As per claims 9 and 10, Chuang does not expressly teach:

receiving from a client terminal a request for an address book; and sending the address book to the client terminal;

receiving a request for the location of a particular patron comprises receiving a selection of the particular patron from the address book.

However these features are obvious variations of the Chuang teachings. Chuang teaches locating a particular GID device of a patron (Chuang; Col. 11, line 47 to Col. 12, line 20). Examiner respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would find these features to be an obvious variation of what Chuang teaches with the motivation of providing visitors with the ability of finding out the exact location, distance and direction of another member of the same group (Chuang; Col. 6, lines 43-46).

11. As per claims 11-16, Chuang does not expressly teach:

Wherein sending a message comprises sending an e-mail message;

Wherein sending a message comprises sending an instant message;

Wherein sending a message comprises sending a broadcast message to the plurality of client terminals;

Wherein sending a broadcast message includes sending a missing patron;

Wherein sending a broadcast message comprises sending a promotional message to the plurality of client terminals; and

Wherein sending a broadcast message comprises sending a notification message to the plurality of client terminals.

However these features are obvious variations of the Chuang teachings. Chuang teaches a "message" feature in the GID device (Chuang; Col. 9, lines 14-21). Examiner respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would find these

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features to be an obvious variation of what Chuang teaches with the motivation of networking the entire guest population and also increasing the business throughout the park (Col. 4, lines 8-20).

12. As per claim 17, Chuang does not expressly teach requesting a list of patrons and selecting from a list of patrons. However this feature is an obvious variations of the Chuang teachings. Chuang teaches a "search" feature in the GID device (Chuang; Col. 9, lines 14-21). Examiner respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would find these features to be an obvious variation of what Chuang teaches with the motivation of networking the entire guest population and also increasing the business throughout the park (Col. 4, lines 8-20).

13. The remaining features of claim 17 and 18-29 repeat limitations of claims 1-16 and the reasons for rejection are incorporated herein.

14. Claims 30-35 repeat limitations of claims 17-29 and the reasons for rejection are incorporated herein.

15. As per claims 36-45, Chuang teaches a computer-readable medium containing instructions (Col. 13, lines 13-31). The remaining features of claims 36-45 repeat limitations of claims 17-29 and the reasons for rejection are incorporated herein.

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16. Claims 46-53 repeat the limitations of claims 36-45 and the reasons for rejection are incorporated herein.

17. Claims 54-57 repeat the limitations of claims 36-45 and the reasons for rejection are incorporated herein.

18. Claims 58-62 repeat the limitations of claims 36-45 and the reasons for rejection are incorporated herein.

19. As per claims 62-65 Chuang teaches
at least one broadcast client terminal to receive a message from the server and display the received message.
wherein the receiving device comprises a card reader.
wherein the sending device comprises a magnetic card
wherein the magnetic card comprises a credit card or a debit card.
(Chuang Col. 9, line 65 to Col. 10, line 5).

20. As per claims 66 and 67 Chuang teaches:
wherein the receiving device comprises a radio frequency receiver and the sending device comprises a radio frequency transmitter.
wherein the receiving device comprises an infrared frequency receiver and the sending device comprises an infrared frequency transmitter.

(Chuang Col. 11, lines 54-55).

21. Claims 68-70 repeat the limitations of claims 1-16 and the reasons for rejection are incorporated herein.

22. Claims 71-78 repeat the limitations of claims 1-16 and the reasons for rejection are incorporated herein.

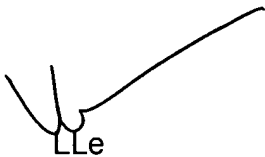
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michelle Linh-Giang Le whose telephone number is 571-272-8207. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM - 5PM, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached on 571-272-3600. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



LLe

Robert Morgan
Robert Morgan
Patent Examiner
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